

Rawiri Smith
Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
187 Queen Street
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Kia ora Nick and Gene

Please receive this communication as an official communication between Meridian and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, about the development known as the Mount Munro Windfarm, that has the purpose of generating electricity from environmentally friendly processes.

Kahungunu ki Wairarapa strongly supports the production of energy, like electricity, through renewable sources like the wind.

As kaitiaki for the whenua or our environment and the tangata or our people, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa has an obligation to understand the establishment stage, the operation stage and the closing stage of any industrial developments. Areas of interest from our kaitiakitanga include visual effects, environmental effects and community effects through a cultural wellbeing lens. This approach is supported by the Resource Management Act, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the Regional Policy Statement.

These points for consideration include but are not restricted to:

1. Resource Management Act, Section 5's Purpose with respect to sustainability of the environment through environmental wellbeing that includes supporting cultural wellbeing, social wellbeing and economic wellbeing.
2. Resource Management Act, Section 6's Matter of National Importance with respect to our traditional connections to Mount Munro and specifically the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga
3. Resource Management Act, Section 8 with respect to recognizing the Treaty of Waitangi specifically in achieving the purpose of this Act, all persons exercising functions and powers under it, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, shall take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).
4. Interestingly Resource Management Act, Section 7 Other Matters weighs up two considerations kaitiakitanga and the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy.
5. During construction Kahungunu ki Wairarapa needs to consider the effects on water often through run off from the modified sites including roads into waterways, so te Mana o te Wai is maintained satisfying both the National Policy Statement and the Regional Policy Statement referred to above.

Addressing each of these points

1. Kahungunu ki Wairarapa supports the sustainability of a renewable energy generator like the Wind Generators planned for Mount Munro because there is a sustainability component that is supporting our community through better access to an affordable energy source. This can enable social and economic wellbeing while not compromising environmental or cultural well being.

2. Kahungunu ki Wairarapa are satisfied that Meridian have given us the opportunity to ascertain the traditional and cultural relationships with the land water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga

2.1 Meridian has given Kahungunu ki Wairarapa the opportunity through asking us if we would like to undertake a cultural impact assessment. We are aware that other traditional entities have looked at this because they have spoken to us about it. We would like to comment on some we have tested with Meridian and I would like to address them here.

2.11 Kahungunu ki Wairarapa have asked Meridian representatives about the effects of the turbines on birds and they have shared with us their study of the birds in the area and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa are satisfied with the results that show a less than minimum effect.

2.12 Kahungunu ki Wairarapa have also asked about the visual effects and while Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is satisfied that the visual effect for the wider community will not be onerous we were concerned about the visual effect for neighbours, including a traditional Maori landblock, but they have more concerns than just visual effects.

2.2 Kahungunu ki Wairarapa does have the responsibility for representing all of our iwi members including those who have traditional lands and are neighbours. Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is satisfied that Meridian has made serious attempts to reach out to all the neighbours living within a two kilometer radius. This includes the consultation about visual effects and other traditional connections. Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is happy to support the responses of the Makirikiri Maori Land Block owners and trustees

3. Kahungunu ki Wairarapa are satisfied that the principles of the treaty with respect to participation, protection and partnership with respect to natural and physical resources have been taken into account by Meridian Energy.

4. Within addressing each of these 5 points Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is satisfied that Meridian has allowed us to be responsible kaitiaki while encouraging the benefits of renewable energy

5. Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is satisfied that during each stage, especially the construction stage, there are plenty of mitigations to ensure waterways won't be affected.

Recommendation

Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is satisfied with the plans of Mount Munro to build renewable energy generators through wind turbines

Nga mihi

Rawiri Smith

Environment Consultant

Kahungunu ki Wairarapa